# HIS MAIESTIES Declaration,

To all His loving SVBIECTS:

Published with the advice of His Privie COVNCEL.

Printed, 1641.

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## To all His loving *SUBIECTS*;

Published with the advice of his *Privie* COUNCELL.

ALthough Wee doe not beleeve that Our House of Commons intended, by their Remonstrance of the State of the Kingdom, to put Us to any Apologie, either for Our past or present Actions; Notwithstanding, since they have thought it so very necessary (upon their Observation of the present Distemper) to publish the same for the satisfaction of all Our loving Subjects, We have thought it very sutable to the duty of Our place, (with which God hath trusted Us) to doe Our

part to so good a Work, in which We shall not think it below Our Kingly dignity to descend to any particular, which may compose and settle the affections of Our meanest Subiects, since We are so conscious to Our Selfe of such upright Intensions and Endeavours, and onely of such (for which Wee give God thanks) for the Peace and Happinesse of Our Kingdome, in which the prosperity of Our Subiects must bee included, that Wee wish from Our heart, that even Our most secret thoughts were published to their view and examination; Though We must confess We cannot but be very sorry in this conjuncture of time (when the unhappinesse of this Kingdom is so generally understood abroad) there should bee such a necessitie of publishing so many particulars, from which, We pray, no Inconveniences may ensue that were not intended.

We shall in few words passe over that part of the Narrative, wherin the Mis-fortunes of this Kingdom from Our first entring to the Crowne, to the beginning of this Parliament, are remembred in so sensible expressions; And that other which acknowledgeth the many good Lawes passed by Our Grace and Favour this Parliament, for the Security of Our people; Of which Wee shall onely say thus much, That as Wee have not refused to passe any Bill presented to Vs by Our Parliament, for redresse of those Grievances mentioned in the Remonstrance, so We have not had a greater Motive for the passing those Lawes then Our Resolution (grounded upon Our

Our Observation, and understanding the State of Our Kingdome) to have freed Our Subjects for the future, from those Pressures which were grievous to them if those Lawes had not beene propounded, which therefore We shall as inviolably maintaine, as Wee looke to have Our owne Rights preserved, not doubting but all Our loving Subjects will looke on those Remedies, with that full gratitude and affection, that even the memory of what they have formerly undergone by the Accidents and necessities of those times, will not be unpleasant to them: And possibly in a pious sense of Gods blessing upon this Nation (how little share soever Wee shall have of the acknowledgement) they will confesse they have injoyed a great measure of happinesse (even these last sixteen yeares) both in peace and plenty, not onely comparatively in respect of their Neighbours, but even of those times which were justly accounted fortunate.

The Feares and Iealousies which may make some impression in the minds of Our People, We will suppose may be of two sorts, either for Religion, or Liberty, and their civill Interests. The Feares for Religion may haply be, not only as Ours here established may be invaded by the Romish party, but as it is accompanied with some Ceremonies, at which some tender Consciences really are, or pretend to be scandalized, for of any other which have beene used without any legall Warrant or Injunction, and already are, or speedily may be abolished, Wee shall not speake.

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Concerning Religion, as there may be any ſuſpi-
tion of favour or inclination to the Papiſts, Wee are
willing to Declare to all the world, That as We have
beene from Our childhood brought up in, and pra-
ctiſed the Religion now eſtabliſhed in this Kingdom;
ſo it is well knowne, We have (not contented ſimp-
ly with the Principles of Our Education) given a
good proportion of Our time and pains, to the exa-
mination of the grounds of this Religion, as it is dif-
ferent from that of Rome, and are from Our ſoule
ſo fully ſatisfied and aſſured, that it is the moſt pure,
and agreeable to the Sacred word of God, of any Re-
ligion now practiſed in the Chriſtian world: That
as Wee beleeve Wee can maintaine the ſame by un-
anſwerable reaſons, ſo We hope We ſhould readily
ſeale to it by the effuſion of Our blood, if it pleaſed
God to call Us to that ſacrifice. And therefore no-
thing can be ſo acceptable unto Us, as any propoſi-
tion which may contribute to the advancement of it
here, or the propagation of it abroad, being the only
meanes to draw downe a bleſſing from God upon
Our ſelves, and this Nation. And We have beene
extreamly unfortunate, if this profeſſion of Ours be
wanting to Our people: Our conſtant practiſe in
Our owne Perſon, having alwayes been (without
oſtentation) as much to the evidence of Our care and
duty herein, as We could poſſibly tell how to ex-
preſſe.

For differences amongſt our ſelves, for matters
indifferent in their own nature concerning Religion,
We ſhall, in tendernes to any number of Our loving

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Subjects, very willingly comply with the advice of Our Parliament, that some Law may bee made for the exemption of tender consciences from punishment, or prosecution for such Ceremonies, and in such cases which by the judgement of most men, are held to be matters indifferent, and of some to be absolutely unlawfull. Provided that this case be attempted, and pursued with that modesty, temper and submission, that in the meane time the peace and quiet of the Kingdome be not disturbed, the decency and comelinesse of Gods service discountenanced, nor the pious, sober, and devout actions of those Reverend Persons, who were the first labourers in the blessed Reformation, or of that time, be scandaliz'd and defamed. For Wee cannot without griefe of heart, and without some tax upon Our Selfe, and Our Ministers for the not execution of Our Lawes, looke upon the bold License of some men, in printing of Pamphlets, in preaching and printing of Sermons, so full of bitternesse and malice against the present Government, against the Lawes established, so full of sedition against Our selfe, and the peace of the Kingdome, that Wee are many times amazed to consider by what Eyes these things are seene, and by what Eares they are heard. And therefore Wee have good cause to command, as Wee have done, and hereby doe, all Our Iudges and Ministers of justice, Our Atturney and Solicitour Generall, and the rest of Our learned Councell, to proceed with all speed against such, and their Abettors, who either by writing or words, have so

boldly and maliciouſly violated the Lawes, diſturbed the peace of the Common-wealth; and, as much as in them lies, ſhaken the very foundation upon which that peace and happineſſe is founded and conſtituted. And Wee doubt not but all Our loving Subjects, will be very ſenſible that this buſie, virulent demeanour, is a fit Prologue to nothing but confuſion; and if not very ſeaſonably puniſhed and prevented, will not onely bee a blemiſh to that wholeſome accommodation Wee intend, but an unſpeakeable ſcandall and imputation, even upon the profeſſion and Religion of this Our Kingdome of *England*.

Concerning the Civill Liberties and Intereſt of Our Subjects, Wee ſhall need to ſay the leſſe, having erected ſo many laſting Monuments of Our Princely and fatherly care of Our People, in thoſe many excellent Lawes paſſed by Us this Parliament, which in truth (with very much content to Our Selfe) Wee conceive to bee ſo large and ample, that very many ſober men have very little left to wiſh for.

Wee underſtood well the Right, and pretences of Right Wee departed from in the conſenting to the Bils of the Trienniall Parliament, for the continuance of this preſent Parliament, and in the preamble to the Bill of Tunnage and Poundage; the matter of which having begot ſo many diſturbances in late Parliaments, Wee were willing to remove, that no intereſt of Ours might hereafter breake that correſpondence, aboundantly contenting Our ſelfe with an Aſſurance (which Wee ſtill have) that wee ſhould

bee

bee repaired and ſupplied by a juſt proportion of confidence, bounty, and obedience of Our people. In the Bils for the taking away the High Commiſſion and Star-chamber Courts, Wee beleeved Wee had given that reall ſatisfaction, that all jealouſies and apprehenſions of Arbitrary preſſures under the Civill or Eccleſiaſticall ſtate, would eaſily have beene abandoned, eſpecially when they ſaw all poſſible doubts ſecured by the viſitation of a Triennial Parliament.

Theſe, and others of no meane conſideration, Wee had rather ſhould bee valued in the hearts and affections of Our people, then in any mention of Our owne, not doubting, but as Wee have taken all theſe occaſions to render their condition moſt comfortable and happy, ſo they will alwayes in a gratefull and dutifull relation, bee ready with equall tenderneſſe and alacrity, to advance Our Rights, and preſerve Our Honour, upon which their owne ſecurity and ſubſiſtance ſo much depends. And Wee will bee ſo carefull, that no particular ſhall bee preſented unto Us for the compleating and eſtabliſhing that ſecurity, to which Wee will not with the ſame readineſſe contribute Our beſt aſſiſtance.

If theſe reſolutions bee the effects of Our preſent Councels, (and Wee take God to witneſſe that they are ſuch, and that all Our loving Subjects may confidently expect the benefit of them from Us) Certainely no ill deſigne upon the Publike can accompany ſuch Reſolutions, neither will there

bee great cauſe of ſuſpition of any Perſons preferred by Us to degrees of Honour, and places of truſt and imploiment ſince this Parliament. And Wee muſt confeſſe, that amongſt Our misfortunes, Wee reckon it not the leaſt, That having not retained in Our Service, nor protected any one Perſon, againſt whom Our Parliament hath excepted, during the whole ſitting of it, and having in all that time ſcarce vouchſafed to any man an iuſtance of Our Grace and Favour, but to ſuch who were under ſome eminent Character of Eſtimation amongſt Our people, there ſhould ſo ſoone bee any miſunderſtanding or jealouſie of their fidelity and uprightneſſe, eſpecially in a time when Wee take all occaſions to declare, That Wee conceive Our ſelfe onely capable of being ſerved by honeſt Men, and in honeſt wayes. How ever, if in truth Wee have beene miſtaken in ſuch Our election, the particular ſhall bee no ſooner diſcovered to Us, either by our owne obſervation, or other certaine information, then Wee will leave them to Publike Iuſtice, under the markes of Our diſpleaſure.

If notwithſtanding this, any malignant Party ſhall take heart, and bee willing to ſacrifice the Peace and Happineſſe of their Countrey to their owne ſiniſter ends and ambitions, under what pretence of Religion and Conſcience ſoever, If they ſhall endeavour to leſſen Our Reputation and intereſt, and to weaken Our lawfull Power and Authority with Our good Subjects, if they ſhall goe about

about, by discountenancing the present Lawes, to loosen the Bonds of Government, that all disorder and confusion may breake in upon Us, Wee doubt not, but God in his good time will discover them unto Us; and the wisedome and courage of Our High Court of Parliament joyn with Us in their suppression and punishment.

Having now said all that Wee can, to expresse the clearnesse and uprightnesse of Our Intentions to Our people, and done all Wee can to manifest those Intentions, Wee cannot but confidently beleeve all Our good Subjects will acknowledge Our part to bee fully performed, both in deeds past, and present Resolutions, to doe whatsoever with Iustice may bee required of Us, and that their quiet and prosperity depends now wholly upon themselves, and is in their owne power, by yeelding all obedience and due reverence to the Law, which is the inheritance of every subject, and the onely security hee can have for his Life, Liberty, or Estate, and the which being neglected or disesteemed (under what specious shewes soever) a great measure of infelicity, if not an irreparable confusion must without doubt fall upon them. And Wee doubt not it will bee the most acceptable Declaration a King can make to His Subjects, that for Our part Wee are resolved not onely duly to observe the Lawes Our selfe, but to maintaine them against what opposition soever, though with the hazard of our being.

And Our hope is, that not only the Loyaltie and

good Affections of all Our loving Subjects, will concur with Vs in the constant preserving a good understanding betweene Vs and Our people, but at this time their owne, and Our interest and compassion of the lamentable condition of Our poore Protestant Subjects in *Ireland*, will invite them to a faire intelligence and unity amongst themselves, that so wee may with one heart intend the relieving and recovering that unhappy Kingdome, where those barbarous Rebels practise such inhumane and unheard of Outrages upon Our miserable people, that no Christian eare can heare without horrour, nor story paralell. And as wee looke upon this, as the greatest affliction it hath pleased God to lay upon Vs, so Our unhappinesse is increased, in that by the distempers at home so early remedies have not beene applyed to those growing evils as the expectation and necessity there requires, though for Our part, as Wee did upon the first notice acquaint Our Parliament of *Scotland*, (where Wee then were) with that Rebellion, requiring their aid and assistance, and gave like speedy intimation and recommendation to Our Parliament here; so since Our returne hither, Wee have beene forward to all things which have beene proposed to Vs towards that worke, and have lately Our Selfe offered (by a Message to Our House of Peers, and communicated to Our House of Commons) to take upon Vs the care to raise speedily ten thousand English Voluntiers for that service, if the House of Commons shall declare that they will pay them; which particulars We are (in a manner) necessita-

ceſſitated to publiſh, ſince Wee are informed that the malice of ſome perſons hath whiſpered it abroad, That the no ſpeedier advancing of this buſines hath proceeded from ſome want of alacrity in Vs to this great worke, whereas Wee acknowledge it a high crime againſt Almighty God, and inexcuſable to Our good Subjects of Our three Kingdomes, if We did not to the utmoſt imploy all Our powers and faculties to the ſpeedieſt and moſt effectual aſſiſtance and protection of that diſtreſſed people.

And Wee ſhall now conjure all Our good Subjects (of what degree ſoever) by all the Bonds of Love, Duty, or Obedience, that are precious to good men, to joyne with Vs for the Recovery of the Peace of that Kingdome, and the preſervation of the Peace of this, to remove all their Doubts and Fears, which may interrupt their affection to Vs, and all their Iealouſies and apprehenſions which may leſſen their Charity to each other, and then (if the ſinnes of this Nation have not prepared an inevitable Iudgement for us all) God will yet make Vs a Great and a Glorious King, over a Free and Happy People.

FINIS.